photo: Harry Kossuth

BOWYER BIBLE VOLUME 44 PRINT 6162
DETAIL OF DRAWING FOR THE HEAD-PIECE VIGNETTE TO THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS IN THE MACKLIN BIBLE
PHILIPPE JACQUES DE LOUTHERBOURG (1740-1812)

The vignette shows the Christ-child in rays of light emanating from clouds carrying a branch and with a halo of stars, winged cherub heads surrounding. In the print derived from the drawing by De Loutherbourg the engraving is accompanied by letterpress in two columns below and on verso and is lettered below the image with production details: "P J de Loutherbourg Invt et del", "J Heath dirt." and publication line: "Published by T Macklin, July 1 1800". Print made by James Heath. Dimensions: height: 490 mms; width: 390 mms.

The Macklin Bible had 72 prints, 22 of which were by Philippe Jacques De Loutherbourg (1740-1812). His interest in the occult and study of Hebrew influenced some of these pictures and the approximately seventy-one vignettes that he produced over the next ten years. During this time, Loutherbourg became a scholarly recluse, extending his knowledge of the Kabbalah and studying his library of rare religious books. Bowyer had De Loutherbourg's original drawings pasted into his grangerised copy of Macklin's Bible. (For a complete inventory of De Loutherbourg's contribution to the Bowyer Bible see Appendix 1.)

James Heath (1757–1834) was an engraver, founder of family dynasty, and father of Charles. Bibliography: John Heath, "The Heath Family Engravers" 1993.